

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated April 19, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 17, 19, 20, 22-27, 32, 34-36, 41-43, 48-50, 95, 96, 98, and 47/1-9, 17, 19, 20, 22-27, 32, 34-36, and 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,866,015 to Kramer et al.; and objected to claims 10-16, 18, 21, 25, 28-31, 33, 37-40, 44-46, 97, and 47/10, 18, 21, 25, 28-31, 33, 37-40, and 44-46 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10-16, 18, 21, 25, 28-31, 33, 37-40, 44-46, 97, and 47/10, 18, 21, 25, 28-31, 33, 37-40, and 44-46.

By this Reply, Applicants have canceled claims 1-9, 17, 19, 20, 22-24, 26, 27, 32, 34-36, 41-43, 48-50, 95-96, and 98, and have amended claims 10-16, 18, 21, 25, 28-31, 33, 37, 40, 44-47, and 97. Accordingly, claims 10-16, 18, 21, 25, 28-31, 33, 37-40, 44-47, 51-94, and 97 are pending in this Application, of which claims 10-16, 18, 21, 25, 28-31, 33, 37-40, 44-47, and 97 are presented for examination.

At the outset, the Examiner recommended that, if "any information that has been cited by Applicants in the previous disclosure statement is known to be material for patentability...Applicant[s] should present a concise statement as to the[ir] relevance." (Office Action at 3.) Applicants advise that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 20, 2004, October 20, 2004, November 17, 2004, and June 3, 2005, are considered generally relevant and relate to various methods for determining hemodynamic parameters, including fistula flow, in extracorporeal blood systems. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to pages 2-11 of the specification,

where Applicants have cited and briefly summarized the references they consider most pertinent to patentability.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-9, 17, 19, 20, 22-27, 32, 34-36, 41-43, 48-50, 95, 96, 98, and 47/1-9, 17, 19, 20, 22-27, 32, 34-36, and 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,866,015 to Kramer et al. In order to expedite the prosecution of this application, however, Applicants have canceled these claims rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

As noted above, the Examiner also objected to claims 10-16, 18, 21, 25, 28-31, 33, 37-40, 44-46, 97, and 47/10, 18, 21, 25, 28-31, 33, 37-40, and 44-46 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended these claims where appropriate, to be either in independent form or to depend from an allowed base claim. Further amendments have been made to improve readability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-16, 18, 21, 25, 28-31, 33, 37-40, 44-47, and 97 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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